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RAMSBOTTOM

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Chief Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1955

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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



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RAMSBOTTOM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL 1955

CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL :

COUNCILLOR B. J. SMITH, (until October, 1955)

COUNCILLOR G. HOLT, J.P. (from October, 1955)

CHAIRMAN OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE :

COUNCILLOR G. HOLT, J.P.

COUNCILLORS:

F. M. ASHWORTH

J. W. PICKUP

H. BRADLEY

*J. H. PARKINSON

*W. S. CLARK
(Until May, 1955)

G. E. POLLARD

*T. R. HAWORTH

H. C. RANDELL

W. HOLDEN, J.P.

*H. SHEPHERD

*H. HUTCHINSON
(From May, 1955)

J. SWINNERTON
(From March 1955)

*A. MOONEY

*F. TIPPING
Until August, 1955)

*Members of the Health Committee

STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

C. H. T. WADE, M.D., B.Sc., D.P.H.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

HARRY KELLETT, M.S.I.A., M.R.S.H.

Cert. Inspector of Meat and Foods, R.S.I.

Cert. Smoke Inspector, R.S.I. ; Sanitary Science Cert., R.S.I.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR

WILLIAM J. WOLSTENHOLME, M.S.I.A.


Cert. Inspector of Meat and Foods, R.S.I.

CLERK

ANDREW L. HAYHURST

SHORTHAND TYPIST

Miss B. TAYLOR



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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL OFFICES.
MARKET PLACE,
RAMSBOTTOM.

June, 1956.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Ramsbottom Urban District Council*

I have the honour to present the annual report for the year 1955 on the health and sanitary conditions of the district.

The mid-year population was estimated by the Registrar General to be 14,140 compared with his estimate of 14,160 last year. The adjusted birth rate was 12.2 per thousand population which was lower than that for England and Wales which was 15.0.

The adjusted death rate was 13.8 per thousand compared with 11.7 for England and Wales. The infant mortality rate was a record low figure of 19 per thousand live births. The national rate was 23.9. There was one maternal death. There were no deaths from Tuberculosis during the year and this is a record.

There was no unusual cause of mortality during the year and infectious disease was largely confined to measles and whooping cough. One mild case of Poliomyelitis occurred in a child aged 2.

The water supply was generally satisfactory on analysis but in a few properties the pressure of the supply was inadequate.

Notification was received of four tuberculous samples out of 128 samples of milk. The Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries identified five tuberculous cows and they were slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

The continued need for pasteurisation of all ungraded milk will be evident.

The Council has asked the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries to declare the district a designated area which means that milk sold in the district must be either from tuberculin tested cattle or heat treated.

Food inspection has involved the Sanitary Inspectors in a great deal of extra work both in the evening and on Saturdays and Sundays. There is no such thing as a five day week under present conditions in regard to meat inspection and I would like to pay tribute to the willingness of the staff who give up their off duty time so frequently and so willingly.

A record number of animals were slaughtered during the year, well over 16,000 and over 20 tons of meat were condemned. There was a rise in the percentage of tuberculous infection found in the slaughtered animals and 40% of cows slaughtered were found to have evidence of this infection.

A complete survey of substandard houses in the district has been made as required under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and details are given in the report.

It was estimated that 678 houses were unfit and the Council drew up a scheme for their replacement. In the first five years it is proposed to deal with 150 of these. Thirteen clearance orders involving 54 houses were dealt with during the year and six local enquiries were held by Inspectors of the Ministry of ~~Health~~ *Housing & Govt*.

I would like to express my thanks to the members of the Council, officers and staff for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. H. T. WADE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Section A

VITAL STATISTICS
FOR THE YEAR
1955

Statistics of the Area, 1955

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	9,559
Population (census 1951)	...	...	...	...	...	14,587
Registrar-General's estimate, mid-1955	...	...	...	...	...	14,140
Number of inhabited houses—						
(a) Census, 1951	...	...	...	...	...	5,005
(b) End of 1955	...	...	...	...	...	5,222
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	...	£84,970
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£324

Vital Statistics

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate	154	83	71	Birth rate per 1,000 estimated home population mid- 1955 = Crude 11·2 Adjusted 12·2
	Illegitimate	4	1	3	
	Total	158	84	74	
Still Births	Legitimate	2	1	1	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births = 13
	Illegitimate	—	—	—	
	Total	2	1	1	
Deaths		219	95	124	Death rate per 1,000 estimated home population mid 1955 = Crude 15·5 Adjusted 13·8
England and Wales		{ Birth rate 15·0 Death rate... .. 11·7			

Age Period of Deaths

				Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year	...	...	...	1	2	3
Between 1 and 5 years	...	...	...	—	1	1
Between 5 and 15 years	...	...	...	1	—	1
Between 15 and 25 years	...	...	...	—	—	—
Between 25 and 45 years	...	...	...	7	4	11
Between 45 and 65 years	...	...	...	18	23	46
65 years and over	...	...	...	69	93	162
				96	123	219

Maternal Mortality

	Deaths	Death rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal and Post-abortion Sepsis	Nil	Nil
Other Maternal Causes	1	6.25
Total Maternal Mortality	1	6.25

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	19
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	19
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	Nil

Deaths from certain Specified Diseases

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... ..	...	...	...	...	35
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... ..	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ..	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... ..	...	...	...	...	Nil

COMMENTS ON VITAL STATISTICS.

Deaths of infants under one year of age : The infant mortality rate of 19 per 1,000 was lower than the national average but the five year average of 24.0 which gives more accurate figure is better than national average.

Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis : There were no deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis and none from Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis. New cases were two and one respectively, these figures are satisfactory when compared with those of England and Wales.

Birth rate : The corrected birth rate was 12.2 that is corrected to a standard population for purpose of comparison with the national rate which was 15.0.

Death rate : The rate of 13.8 per 1,000 compares with 11.7 for England and Wales.

Still Birth rate : The number of registered stillbirths was 2 as compared with five last year.

CAUSES OF DEATH	1955	1954
ALL CAUSES	219	198
Tuberculosis, respiratory	0	1
Tuberculosis, other	0	0
Syphilitic Disease	1	1
Diphtheria	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0
Meningococcal infections	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0
Measles	0	0
Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	0
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	6	6
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	4
Malignant neoplasm, breast	5	5
Malignant neoplasm, Uterus (F), Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (M)	2	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	20	8
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	0	0
Diabetes	3	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	40	31
Coronary disease, angina	25	33
Hypertension with heart disease	15	10
Other heart diseases	38	36
Other circulatory disease	11	13
Influenza	0	2
Pneumonia	3	3
Bronchitis	16	16
Other diseases of respiratory system.....	1	0
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	4	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	0
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	1	0
Congenital malformations	2	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	11	14
Suicide	2	2
Motor vehicle accidents	1	1
All other accidents	6	4
Homicide and operations of war	0	0

TABLE I
RAMSBOTTOM U.D.C. STATISTICS, 1955 TO 1935

Year	Population	Death Rate per 1,000	Birth Rate per 1,000	INFANTILE MORTALITY			Still Births per 1,000 live and still Births	Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still Births	Tuberculosis all Forms Death Rate
				All Infants per 1,000	Leg. Infants per 1,000 Leg. Births	Illeg. Infants per 1,000 Illeg. Births			
1955	14,140	15.5	11.2	19	19	Nil	13	6.25	Nil
1954	14,160	14.0	12.3	23	23	Nil	28	Nil	0.07
1953	14,210	11.3	13.8	31	31	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.14
1952	14,190	16.4	14.2	25	25	Nil	38	4.78	.07
1951	14,380	17.2	14.2	25	25	Nil	24	Nil	.20
1950	14,440	15.9	14.3	24	25	Nil	24	Nil	.14
1949	14,530	13.7	14.5	19	20	Nil	41	Nil	.41
1948	14,390	15.2	16.7	12	12	Nil	20	Nil	.28
1947	14,070	17.6	21.0	43	41	111	13	Nil	.28
1946	13,900	15.1	17.8	52	46	181	31	3.9	.5
1945	13,340	14.7	14.6	30.6	27	71	29	4.95	.45
1944	13,450	13.31	15.98	60.5	60	66.66	35.87	Nil	.67
1943	13,730	14.13	15.8	64.5	60.3	111.1	18.4	4.52	.29
1942	14,240	15.17	13.48	62	65	Nil	35	Nil	.21
1941	14,890	12.5	11.5	55	51	167	65	10.9	.47
1940	14,850	14.2	10.7	56	57	Nil	42	Nil	.34
1939	14,970	11.88	11.42	63	64	Nil	45	5.59	.27
1938	14,940	11.6	11.0	30	18	500	62	11.36	.33
1937	15,030	12.3	11.8	56	58	Nil	48	5.34	.47
1936	15,190	13.5	12.1	81	78	142	60	5.07	.66
1935	15,220	12.6	11.3	46	46	Nil	28	5.6	.79

TABLE III
RAMSBOTTOM U.D.C. STATISTICS
MEAN RATES FOR 1938—1955

Mean of 5 Years	PER 1,000 OF ESTIMATED POPULATION			Rate of Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births
	Live Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis	
1938—1942	11.5	13.0	0.27	53
1939—1943	12.5	13.5	0.27	60
1940—1944	13.4	13.8	0.27	59
1941—1945	14.2	13.9	0.29	54
1942—1946	15.5	14.4	0.33	53
1943—1947	17.0	14.9	0.33	49
1944—1948	17.3	15.3	0.30	40
1945—1949	17.0	15.3	0.33	33
1946—1950	16.9	15.5	0.33	32
1947—1951	16.1	15.9	0.18	24
1948—1952	14.7	15.6	0.15	21
1949—1953	14.2	14.9	0.15	24
1950—1954	14.2	14.9	0.09	25
1951—1955	13.1	14.8	0.08	24

VITAL STATISTICS

Birth and Death-Rates, together with case rates for certain infectious diseases, for England and Wales in the year, 1955.

(Provisional figures based on Registrar-General's Quarterly Returns)

Estimated home population mid-1955 — 44,441,000

	<i>England and Wales</i>		<i>Ramsbottom</i>
	<i>No.</i>	<i>Rate per 1000 home population</i>	<i>Rate per 1000 home population</i>
BIRTHS			
Live births	664,711	15.0	12.2
Stillbirths	15,748	{ 0.35 23.1(a)	0.14 13.0
DEATHS			
All causes	518,657	11.7	13.8
Tuberculosis (all forms)	6,493	0.15	0.00
Respiratory	5,838	0.13	0.00
Non-respiratory	655	0.02	0.00
Cancer (all forms)	91,337	2.06	2.47
Lung and bronchus	17,271	0.39	0.14
Other cancer	74,066	1.67	2.33
Maternal Mortality (total)	437	0.64(a)	6.25
Maternal causes (excluding abortion)	369	0.54(a)	6.25
Due to abortion	68	10.10(a)	0.00
Infant mortality	16,515	24.9(b)	19.00
Neo-natal mortality	11,518	17.3(b)	19.00
NOTIFICATIONS (CORRECTED)			
Typhoid fever	190	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid fever	871	0.02	0.00
Meningococcal infection	1,126	0.03	0.00
Scarlet fever	32,591	0.73	0.00
Whooping cough	79,092	1.78	5.30
Diphtheria	169	0.00	0.00
Erysipelas	4,612	0.10	0.00
Smallpox	Nil	Nil	Nil
Measles	693,741	15.61	14.9
Pneumonia	27,899	0.63	0.42
Acute poliomyelitis—			
Paralytic	3,710	0.08	0.07
Non-paralytic	2,621	0.06	0.00
Acute encephalitis—			
Infective	148	0.00	0.00
Post-infectious	118	0.00	0.00
Dysentery	36,698	0.83	0.14
Food poisoning	12,717	0.29	0.42
Puerperal pyrexia	12,108	0.27	0.00
Tuberculosis—			
Respiratory	34,209	0.77	0.14
Meninges and C.N.S.	533	0.01	0.00
Other	4,162	0.09	0.07

(a) Per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

(b) Per 1,000 related births.

TABLE IV

	Live Births		Deaths (all causes)		Still Births		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality		
	No. registered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n.	No. registered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n.	No. registered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n.	No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1,000 live births	Rate per 1,000 live births
RAMSBOTTOM U.D.											
Year 1955	158	*12.2	219	*13.8	2	13	1	6.25	5	19	3
Year 1954	174	*13.4	198	*12.4	5	28	Nil	Nil	4	23	4
Year 1953	196	*13.8	160	*11.3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	6	31	4
Year 1952	201	*14.2	233	*16.4	8	38	1.0	4.78	5	25	2
Year 1951	204	*14.2	248	*17.2	5	24	Nil	Nil	5	25	2
Year 1950	207	14.3	230	15.9	5	24	Nil	Nil	5	24	4
Average 5 years— 1950—1954	—	13.98	—	14.64	—	22.8	—	.956	—	25.6	—
											16.4

* Adjusted { live birth-rate (comparability factor, 1.09) = 14.6 per 1,000 } Means corrected to a Standard
 death-rate (" " 0.89) = 11.03 " " Population for the purpose of
 comparison with other districts

Section B

GENERAL PROVISIONS
OF
HEALTH SERVICES

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Under the National Health Service Act the County Council is responsible for the local health services.

The examination of pathological specimens and milk and water samples is undertaken without charge by the Public Health Laboratory at Monsall Hospital, Manchester.

The following matters are the responsibility of the Urban Council :—The control of infectious disease ; provision of suitable water supplies ; control of cleansing and disposal of refuse ; inspection of all food and food preparing premises ; sampling of foodstuffs (milk, ice-cream, etc.) for bacteriological examination ; sanitary accommodation to houses, factories, shops and other premises ; inspection of houses with regard to fitness for human habitation ; nuisances and defects ; rodent control ; offensive trades ; smoke abatement ; and many other matters concerned with environmental health.

Hospital facilities are now under the Regional Board and Management Committees, and patients are admitted without regard to local boundaries.

Ambulance, District Nursing, Midwifery and Maternity and Child Welfare Services are provided by the County Council and administered under the Divisional Health Service Scheme.

Section C

PREVALANCE OF AND
CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES

COMPARATIVE TABLE SHOWING INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1946—1955

DISEASE	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946
Scarlet Fever ...	—	7	26	6	29	28	23	25	8	20
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	2	3
Enteric Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	211	17	172	130	175	194	11	263	172	97
Whooping Cough ...	75	18	17	17	24	41	22	18	39	12
Pneumonia ...	6	9	3	—	10	16	13	27	12	22
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—
Erysipelas ...	—	2	3	1	3	1	8	3	5	2
Respiratory Tuberculosis ...	2	2	—	5	3	5	9	3	5	10
Non-respiratory Tuberculosis...	1	3	—	2	1	5	4	3	1	5
Dysentery ...	2	2	1	—	7	1	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
Acute Polio-myelitis ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	1	—
Acute Polio-encephalitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid "B" ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	—	1	—	—	—	3	—	1	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ...	—	1	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	298	63	223	165	254	295	93	360	247	172

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING 1955

19

DISEASE	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED												Deaths in Hospi- tal	Cases re- moved to Hospital	Total Deaths
	Total Cases all ages	AGE PERIODS—YEARS								65 and over	Age Un- known				
		0—	1—	3—	5—	10—	15—	25—	45—						
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	211	2	47	57	98	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	75	9	19	19	27	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Pneumonia ...	6	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Dysentery ...	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	295	11	67	76	125	9	2	—	5	—	—	—	—	2	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES—MONTHLY INCIDENCE, 1955

DISEASE	Total	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Scarlet Fever ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles ...	211	4	9	65	77	36	10	1	6	2	1	-	-
Whooping Cough ...	75	-	-	1	3	-	-	6	16	5	19	25	-
Pneumonia ...	6	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Respiratory Tuberculosis ...	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Non-respiratory Tuberculosis	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Polio-myelitis ...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Dysentery ...	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Meningococcal Meningitis...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malaria ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals ...	298	4	10	68	83	36	10	7	25	8	21	26	-

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1955

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
Years	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 to 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 to 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 to 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 to 20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 to 25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 to 35	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
35 to 45	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 to 55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 to 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over... ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
	2		1		0		0	

PARTICULARS OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS ON THE REGISTER DURING 1955

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total Pulmonary & Non-Pulmonary		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Number of Cases of tuberculosis on the Register at the commencement of the year	16	14	30	11	7	18	27	21	48
Number of Cases added to the Register during the year	1	1	2	—	1	1	1	2	3
Number of Cases of tuberculosis removed from the Register during the year on account of :									
(a) having died	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) having left the district	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(c) having recovered	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
(d) diagnosis of tuberculosis not being confirmed	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Number of Cases remaining on the Register at the end of the year	17	14	31	11	8	19	28	22	50

PREVALANCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 143 - 170.

National Health Service Act, 1946, Part III.

(i) Infectious Diseases.

Cases of infectious diseases are now admitted free of charge to the most suitable infectious disease hospital without regard to local boundaries.

(ii) Laboratory Facilities.

Laboratory facilities are available at the Public Health Laboratory, Monsall Hospital, Manchester, for the bacteriological examination of food, milk, water, ice-cream, faeces and urine, etc.

The following specimens were submitted for examination :—

Milk for Tuberculosis	....	....	....	....	129
Milk for Methylene Blue	....	....	....	....	141
Milk for Turbidity Test	....	....	....	....	4
Milk for Phosphatase Test	....	....	....	....	13
Water for Bacteria	....	....	....	....	34
Ice-cream for Methylene Blue	....	....	....	....	36
Throat Swabs	....	....	....	....	2
Faeces Samples	....	....	....	....	14
Chinese Egg Albumen	....	....	....	....	3

(iii) Whooping Cough.

75 cases were notified, compared with 18 cases in the previous year.

(iv) Scabies.

Under modern conditions there is little reason why there should be any cases of scabies, and most of the cases occur amongst school-children. No cases were treated at the School Clinic during the year.

(v) Tuberculosis.

There were 2 new cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis and 1 of Non-respiratory Tuberculosis, and there were no deaths from respiratory tuberculosis. High priority is given for re-housing whenever an infectious case of Tuberculosis is reported.

(vi) Smallpox.

No cases occurred during the year.

(vii) Poliomyelitis.

One case of acute anterior poliomyelitis, a child aged $2\frac{1}{3}$ years was notified, and removed to the Florence Nightingale Infectious Diseases Hospital. No further cases occurred and the one case recovered.

Three contacts from cases at Chiddingfold, Surrey, Cullercoats and Deepdale were kept under observation. In none of those contacts did the disease develop.

(viii) Disinfection.

Present-day knowledge has reduced the necessity for disinfection as frequently as in the past, and during the year under review, no disinfection took place.

(ix) National Assistance Act, 1948. Section 47.

This section gives powers to the Medical Officer of Health to remove persons who are in need of care and attention and who are living under insanitary conditions. One case, that of an elderly female living alone occurred during the year. This was dealt with informally after the old lady had been found on the floor of her living room with a broken femur. Cleansing of the premises and handing over of a dog to the R.S.P.C.A. completed the action by the Health Department.

(x) Chinese Egg Albumen.

In common with other local authorities quantities of this material came into the district. Sixteen premises were visited. In all three samples of egg albumen were submitted for bacteriological examination. No salmonellae were isolated from any of the samples.

Section D

SANITARY
CIRCUMSTANCES

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
MARKET PLACE,
RAMSBOTTOM.

1st June, 1956.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Ramsbottom Urban District Council*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present, in conjunction with the Medical Officer of Health, my Annual Report on the work of environmental health carried out during the year 1955.

No changes in the staff of the department took place during the year. The Council did however, consider the question of a student sanitary inspector and in October approved the establishment of this post. The Council are to be commended for this far sighted decision as a contribution to an increase in a nationally much depleted inspectorate.

Refuse collection and disposal, which absorbs a large slice of the local rates continued without much disturbance during the year except for a difficult period in the winter. On average the men maintained a seven days collection. This is a service which is only noticed by its absence, and it is increasingly difficult to recruit staff for this work.

The two sulphur-di-oxide recorders in the district reveal that Ramsbottom had the lowest readings out of twenty-six authorities in the scheme. This should not lead to complacency as the results are still far from satisfactory. Ramsbottom being mainly in a valley results in "smog" in the valley bottom. The ideal to be aimed at is the condition of the atmosphere during the towns holiday week, when many of its citizens have gone in search of "fresh air."

During the year a survey of sub-standard houses was completed. Compared with many industrial towns in the North West the position is moderately good. A total of 678 houses were considered to be unfit, and as a start the Council decided to deal with 150 in the first five years. The clearance of unfit houses continued during the year, and orders were made involving 13 areas, containing 54 houses.

Six local public enquiries were heard by the Ministry; the work involved, from an administrative point of view, is fairly considerable.

Meat inspection continued apace, a record number of animals, 16,604 being inspected. The food inspectors worked overtime roughly equivalent to an extra full time inspector for a period of three months. That this service is of vital public health importance is shown by the fact that over 20 tons of meat were condemned.

The field of environmental health progressively changes, and the near future will bring important alterations in food hygiene law, and the law concerning clean air. The aim is, as always, the improvement of the public health, and each phase of work of the inspectorate is directed to that end.

In conclusion I wish to thank Councillor G. Holt, J.P., Chairman of the Health Committee and all the Committee members for their continuing interest and support in the various public health matters dealt with during the year. The ready co-operation of the Officers of the Council is gratefully acknowledged.

I wish to record my thanks to the Medical Officer of Health for his help and advice, and all the members of the Health Department Staff for their loyal service.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. KELLETT,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES AND SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Water Act, 1945.

Water Supply.

The following table shows the number of houses and types of supply in the district :—

No. of Houses Connected to Public Mains during 1955		SUPPLIES TO HOUSES					
		Supply to all Houses at end of Year					
		From Public Mains				From Private Supplies	
		Direct to Houses		By means of Stand Pipes			
Existing	New	No. of Houses	Est. Pop.	No. of Houses	Est. Pop.	No. of Houses	Est. Pop.
6	36	4,761	13,826	Nil	Nil	367	962

(a) PUBLIC.—The public water supply is provided and maintained by the Irwell Valley Water Board. The sources of the water are upland surface reservoirs at Clowbridge, Ogden, Calf Hey, and Scout Moor. The whole supply is chlorinated and part is filtered through closed pressure filters. Additional filtration plant is now in operation at Loveclough, Crawshawbooth. There is liability to slight plumbosolvency at Clowbridge and Ogden reservoirs. Lime treatment is carried out at most of the reservoirs, and during the year the Water Board took 172 samples in the district for plumbosolvency. Quantity is insufficient in a few properties connected to low pressure mains, and on common service pipes.

Ten samples were taken by the Department of the public supply and these were all satisfactory; the Water Board report that the results of analysis of 172 bacteriological and 40 chemical samples have been satisfactory.

There is very close liaison between the officials of the Health Department and the Engineer and Manager of the Board in regard to water samples, and in all matters connected with public water supplies, and this co-operation is gratefully acknowledged.

The Board are actively engaged in large filtration schemes, and the whole of the Board's supply is subject to very frequent sampling by the health authorities throughout its supply area.

(b) PRIVATE.—Many houses and isolated farms draw their water from private supplies. 24 bacteriological samples were taken from private supplies which were suspected, of these 10 were unsatisfactory, 8 doubtful, 6 satisfactory.

During the year 6 houses previously on private supplies were connected to the main. In all 809 yards of new 3 inch main were laid during the year, and 266 yards of 3 inch main to improve supplies to existing properties. Old mains were renewed to the extent of 361 yards of 4 inch and 6 inch main.

Sewage Disposal.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 15.

The sewage disposal works are situated at Summerseat. They embody detritus tanks, sedimentation tanks, percolating filters and humus tanks. During the year the provision of new pumps has been put in hand.

Rivers and Streams.

Rivers (Prevention of Pollution) Act, 1951.

The Mersey River Board is the controlling authority. There is close liaison with the District Inspector (Mr. R. L. Bolton, A.M.C.T., A.R.S.H.), Mersey River Board. A number of cases of river pollution were brought to his notice, and joint inspection of new septic tank installations took place. In October the pollution of a stream in the Holcombe Brook area was reported. Investigation revealed considerable sewage pollution coming from property in the area of a neighbouring authority. Eventually representatives of the two authorities concerned met and agreement was reached as to the solution of the problem.

Closet Accommodation.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 47.

The following conversions were carried out during the year :—

29 Waste Water Closets converted to Fresh Water Closets.

The Council make a grant to a maximum of £10 towards the cost of conversion of waste water closets and pail closets into fresh water closets,

Pail Closet Accommodation.

Out of a total of 169 pail closets in use in various parts of the Urban District the Council provides a weekly emptying service for 126 premises. These premises fall into three groups.

- | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| (a) Property not more than 100 feet from sewer and water supply | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 26 |
| (b) Property where sewer extensions required | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 13 |
| (c) Isolated property, sewers will not be available for a long period of years | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 87 |

ACCOMMODATION AT END OF 1955.

Privy Middens	...	...	...	...	...	24
Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	...	169
Waste Water Closets	...	...	...	...	...	844
Fresh Water Closets	...	...	...	...	...	3,771

Public Cleansing.

Types of receptacles in use at the end of the year:—

Privy Middens	...	...	...	...	...	24
Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	...	169
Dry Ash Pits	...	...	...	...	...	23
Dustbins (approx.)	...	...	...	...	...	4,893

(a) Refuse Collection.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 72.

The collection of domestic and trade refuse and salvage, is carried out by direct labour. During the year the Karrier Bantam 7 cu. yd. side loader was taken out of service and finally disposed of. The Health Department van was also replaced by a ten cwt. Austin Van, in view of the increased work in connection with meat inspection.

TRANSPORT

<i>Date</i>	<i>Registered</i>	<i>Registration</i>	<i>Make</i>	<i>Capacity</i>
1949, Feb.	KTC448		S&D side loader	7 cu. yds.
1950, Feb.	LTD361		S&D side loader	7 cu. yds.
1954, March	STC781		S&D fore and aft tipper	16 cu. yds.
1955, May.	VTC477		Austin Van	10 cwt.

The normal establishment of Cleansing Staff consists of one foreman, three drivers, two tipmen and twelve ashbinmen. The labour problem has been a little easier this year. The use of casual labour is never satisfactory, and the collection service is kept going by a nucleus of permanent men who maintain an interest, in a not altogether agreeable occupation. The important part these men play in the communal hygiene of the district cannot be over emphasised. The competition for labour is such that it is difficult to recruit staff for this type of work. A laborious job, undertaken in all types of weather, cannot compare with modern factory conditions, and financially is far less attractive.

The Cleansing Staff are provided with two sets of overalls annually and a set of water-proof clothing bi-annually.

A 44-hour week has been in operation since October 1948 ; this is spread over $5\frac{1}{2}$ days during November to February ; and 5 days during the remainder of the year. A special collection of trade refuse is made on Saturday mornings during the 5-day week period, by one vehicle.

Repairs and maintenance are carried out by the Council's Transport Department. This system came into operation in 1954 and has proved very successful. Costs have been considerably reduced, the vehicles are kept in a better state of repair, and considerable time has been saved, urgent repairs being dealt with immediately. The co-operation of the Transport Manager, Mr. L. T. Merrall, and his staff is acknowledged.

(b) Refuse Disposal.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 76.

The new 16 acre tipping site at Bolton Road West, which came into use on the 26th May, 1954 continued to be the sole disposal area in the district.

During the year the Engineers and Surveyors Department carried out work on the tip road and raised the culvert manhole as tipping proceeded. Trouble was experienced at one period during strong easterly winds, in the blowing of paper from the tipping face. Fish-net screens are now provided to minimise this trouble.

Considering that over 5000 tons of refuse were deposited during the year the tip has been the source of very little nuisance. The Council spent during the year £216 on covering material, this being essential if tipping is to be controlled. Two tip attendants are em-

ployed, but it is not easy to find men who will undertake this work, particularly when their labours are disturbed by trespassers who have on occasions set the tip on fire, and have done other damage at considerable expense to the public funds.

The tip is treated at regular intervals for rodents to ensure that these are eliminated at the earliest possible stage. Plans were put in hand for the erection of a concrete mess hut for the tip attendants, including washing facilities and sanitary accommodation.

The Council provide facilities for public tipping on the new tip. Clean covering material—ashes and cinders are accepted free of charge, and all other suitable materials at 5s. 0d. per 3-ton load, with smaller loads *pro rata*.

The contents of pail closets are collected weekly by a special night soil tank, and are discharged via a special chute to the sewer.

Particulars of Loads tipped—

				Loads	Estimated Tonnage
Household refuse	...	...	...	1,719	5,098
Privy Middens	...	...	...	36	60
Various (covering material, etc.)	...			56	112
				<hr/> 1,811	<hr/> 5,270

Loads not tipped, (Salvage) (Special collections)

				Loads	Estimated Tonnage
Waste Paper	...	...	...	177	85

SUMMARY

				Loads	Tons
Total amount disposed of	...	...		<hr/>1,988	<hr/> 5,355

During the year a number of loads of refuse were weighed and from these figures the estimated tonnage was calculated.

CLEANSING COSTS.

The net cost of refuse collection and disposal for financial year ending 31st Mar. 1956, was £9,715 5s. 10d. compared with £9,710 os. 2d. for the previous year.

	£	s.	d.
Nett Cost per Ton (estimated weight)... ..	1	16	10
Nett Cost per 1,000 premises	1,856	18	0
Nett Cost per 1,000 population (14,160) ...	686	2	2
Nett Cost—equivalent rate in the £	2	6.23	
Percentage to total rates in the £		10.18%	

(c) Salvage

There was a considerable increase in the quantity of waste paper and cardboard collected during the year, the figure rising from 20 to 85 tons. The revenue from salvage which includes scrap metal, bones, textiles, etc., rose from £413 in 1954 to £850 in 1955.

A bonus scheme was introduced in September for waste paper, etc., and in all £72 was paid out to the staff. As the year ended there was a fall in the price paid for waste paper, the price having risen and fallen during the year. The outlook for 1956 is bad, the paper mills have introduced quotas, and the future of disposal is unsettled, and this despite the fact that more and more use is being made of this type of material.

The constant fluctuation in the waste paper market makes salvage recovery difficult to operate and could end in local authorities abandoning this service.

(d) Provision of Dustbins.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 75.

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953. Section 8.

Consideration has been given to the institution of a local authority bin replacement scheme, but it was not felt that the time was opportune to inaugurate this method of bin provision and replacement. The increase in the price of dustbins at the last budget by as much as eleven shillings per bin has made a municipal dust bin scheme less likely, for the time being on financial grounds.

An increase of this amount on an article that forms an essential part of domestic equipment seems to be a tax on hygiene.

The owners of all property are required to provide replacements in all cases. In six cases only had statutory notices to be served for the provision of dustbins. By the financial year end 370 bins complying with B.S.S. 792 had been sold by the Council.

The provision of adequate storage facilities for domestic refuse is a contribution to public health, for it reduces the foodstuff available to flies and reduces their breeding potential. Accidents to the Council's employees are reduced when sound receptacles of standard design are used, and loaders work faster with standard bins.

(e) Salvage of Materials.

The following list shows weights of material recovered and the income from their sale :—

	T.	c.	q.	lbs.	£	s.	d.
Condemned Food	2	18	3	23	60	5	5
Bones	6	6	1	2	35	7	0
Mixed Waste Paper	78	—	2	1	659	17	3
Cardboard	7	8	1	0	66	14	3
Scrap Metal	14	14	3	3	22	15	3
Textiles	—	14	3	0	5	1	6
	<hr/> 110	<hr/> 3	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 3	<hr/> £850	<hr/> 0	<hr/> 8

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA

Number and Nature of Inspections	Total Visits
Housing—Housing Act	1,265
Housing—Public Health Act	255
Other Visits—Public Health Act	334
Temporary Dwellings	2
Vermin Infestations	6
Infectious Diseases	33
Water Supply	52
Water Samples	34
Sanitary Accommodation	105
Conversion of Obsolete Closets to F.W.C.'s	29
Drainage	248
Refuse Accommodation	32
Public Cleansing	97
Public Conveniences	10
Dairies	4
Bakehouses	1
Butchers Shops	6
Fried Fish Shops	3
Ice Cream Premises	22
Food Preparing Premises	6
Hawkers	2
Restaurants	1
Slaughterhouses	10
Ice Cream Samples	36
Milk Samples (Bacteriological)	145
Meat Inspection	885
Food Inspection	47
Factories Act	3
Outworkers	8
Shops	6
Schools	3
Smoke Abatement	8
Rodent Control	36
Keeping of Animals	6
Miscellaneous Visits	19
Overcrowding	2
General Food Premises	6
Food Poisoning	43
Problem Families	3
	3,813

Notices Served.

Informal Notices	....	....	...	....	....	....	147
Statutory Notices	....	....	....	....	....	....	9

DEFECTS AND NUISANCES FOUND

(a) Housing.

[illegible]

(b) Sanitary and Refuse Accommodation.

[illegible]

						Found or de- fective	Reme- died
W.W.C's converted	....	....	....	....	....	29	29
Choked W.W.C's	....	....	....	....	....	35	35
W.C's or Structures	....	....	....	....	....	1	1
Extra W.C's installed	....	....	....	....	....	—	3

(c) Drainage.

Choked Drainage	....	....	....	....	....	39	39
Defective Drainage	....	....	....	....	....	16	16
New Drainage inspected and passed	....	....	....	....	....	—	14
Colour Tests	....	....	....	....	....	—	10
Smoke Tests	....	....	....	....	....	—	23
Defective Septic Tanks	....	....	....	....	....	4	4
Defective Downspouts	....	....	....	....	....	3	3
Old Drains Tested	....	....	....	....	....	—	1

(d) General.

Accumulations	....	....	....	....	....	8	8
Verminous Premises, excluding Bed Bugs	....	....	....	....	....	1	1
Other Nuisances	....	....	....	....	....	26	26
Rodent Infestations	....	....	....	....	....	77	77
Dangerous Structures	....	....	....	....	....	—	—

(e) Slaughterhouses.

Lighting	1	1
----------	------	------	------	------	------	---	---

(f) Food Premises, Hawkers.

Risk of Contamination	....	....	....	....	....	1	1
Cleanliness	....	....	....	....	....	1	1

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

(1) Inspections for purposes of provisions as to Health :—

Premises	Number on Register	NUMBER OF		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 are to be enforced by the L.A.	10	—	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by L.A. ...	112	3	—	—
(3) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the L.A. (excluding out-workers premises) ...	2	—	—	—
Total	124	3	—	—

(2) Cases in which Defects were found :

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Reasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences	2	2	—	—	—
(a) Insufficient (Sec. 7)	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2	2	—	—	—

OUTWORKERS.

There are four outworkers registered with the local authority ; one employed in the weaving of textile fabrics ; two making curtain and furniture hangings ; one making wearing apparel. The premises used for this work were found to be satisfactory.

Smoke Abatement.

Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 101 - 106.

There are thirty-nine factory chimneys in the district. No observations were taken during the year.

Two lead peroxide instruments, which record the amount of sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere, were installed on the 25th May 1954 by the Manchester and District Regional Smoke Abatement Committee.

The results are expressed as milligrammes of sulphur trioxide per day, per 100 square centimetres of lead peroxide, exposed in a special instrument, to the weather.

Site	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Sum- mer Mean	Oct.	Nov.	Dec. 1955
RAMSBOTTOM Cemetery ...	1.72	1.18	0.91	0.57	0.91	1.17	1.08	2.08	2.79	2.65
Cricket Gnd.	1.75	1.33	0.96	0.69	0.71	0.66	1.02	1.45	1.98	2.56
RADCLIFFE ...	2.84	2.55	1.86	1.10	1.79	1.93	2.01	2.93	4.34	4.51
HEYWOOD ...	2.57	2.03	1.14	0.92	0.97	1.75	1.56	2.66	3.51	3.71
STRETFORD ... (Metrovick)	7.26	8.95	7.61	6.23	3.56	8.02	6.94	10.08	8.40	12.02

Neighbouring authorities participating in the scheme are quoted, and the district in the area of the Committee with the worst results.

There are 26 local authorities participating in this scheme, covering an area from Ashton-under-Lyne to Little Lever, and Littleborough to Swinton. In all, 50 sulphur-di-oxide recorders are in operation and of these the two recorders in the Ramsbottom area gave the lowest readings for the summer period, April—September, 1955.

Offensive fumes from two factories were the subject of intensive investigation, in co-operation with Mr. H. Brigg, H.M. Inspector of Alkali Works. Both firms are resolved to solve this problem at considerable expense in the near future. In one factory a " pilot " scheme is in course of trial, in the other work has been commenced on a new plant.

Verminous Premises.

Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 83 - 85.

No cases of bug infestation were reported or discovered during the year. 1 case of flea infestation was treated.

When treatment is carried out by the Department, various types of residual spray, containing varying percentages of D.D.T. and Gammexane are used. The sprays have generally been very efficient.

Offensive Trades.

Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 107, 108.

There are five offensive trades in the district: 1 tripe boiler, 1 soap boiler, 2 gut scrapers, 1 tallow refiner.

Schools.

The standard of accommodation of the school meals service is generally good, adequate washing facilities, hot water, hot cupboards and hot plates, storage cupboards, etc., being provided.

The sanitary accommodation at two schools in rural parts of the district leave much to be desired. Turn County School is on pail closets and Buckhurst School is on privy middens. No sewers are available in either district.

Mains water is delivered daily in containers by the Schools Meals Service to Buckhurst School, there being no suitable supply available locally.

The following is an analysis of the sanitary condition of the schools in the area :—

Total No. of schools in district	....	....	....	12
No. of schools with unsatisfactory yard surfaces	....			—

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

No. of schools with :

(i) Fresh Water Closets only	....	....	....	10
(ii) Waste Water Closets only	....	....	....	0
(iii) Trough Closets only	....	....	....	0
(iv) Pail Closets only	....	....	....	1
(v) Privy Closets only	....	....	....	1

REFUSE ACCOMMODATION

No. of schools with :

(i) Dustbins	....	....	....	....	11
(ii) Dry Ashpits	....	....	....	....	1

WATER SUPPLY

No. of schools supplied from :

(i) Public Mains	....	....	....	....	12
(ii) Private Supplies	....	....	....	....	—

DRAINAGE

No. of schools with drainage to :

(i) Public Sewers	....	....	....	....	....	10
(ii) Inadequate Disposal Systems	....	....	....	....	....	2

WASHING FACILITIES

Some room for improvement in the older schools.

FOOD HANDLING FACILITIES

In the majority of cases these are satisfactory, although there is room for improvement in a few schools.

Tents, Vans, Sheds and Moveable Dwellings.

Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 268 - 269.

There are no licensed camping sites in the area. One individual licence in connection with a caravan was renewed during the year. This site was kept in a satisfactory condition.

Rodent Control.

Pests Act, 1949.

Considerable work was done under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949. One part-time trained rodent operative is employed in the Department, and one ashbinman is a trained operative, acting as a reserve.

(a) **SURFACE INFESTATIONS.**—During the year the following surface infestations were treated :—

SURFACE INFESTATIONS — RATS AND MICE

	Local Authority	Private Dwellings	Agricultural Premises	Business & Miscellaneous Premises	Total
Primary Inspections ...	1	50	12	19	72
Rat Infestations—"Reservoir"	—	—	—	—	—
"Major"	—	2	1	—	3
"Minor"	7	48	1	25	81
Mice Infestations ...	—	29	—	5	34
Total Treatments ...	7	79	2	30	118
No. of points poisoned or used	119	474	77	167	837
Bodies Found—Rats	9	24	14	4	51
Mice	—	—	—	—	—

The Council's refuse tip received two treatments during the year. The poison Warfarin was used extensively during the year with very satisfactory results. Visits to baiting points were reduced and a more efficient kill obtained. In certain cases for example, factories, hospitals, etc., permanent baiting points were set up to deal with subsequent invasions of rats.

(b) SEWER TREATMENTS.

- (1) MAINTENANCE TREATMENT.—Two took place during the year, one in March, the other in August. In the first case 64 manholes were poisoned with 10% arsenic and bread mash, 5 good takes and 9 partial takes occurred. In the second case 40 manholes were poisoned with 2½% zinc phosphide and sausage rusk, 7 good takes and 2 partial takes occurred.
- (2) TEST-BAIT.—A 20% test baiting of the sewers, with sausage rusk, was carried out in August between the above two treatments; 133 manholes were treated. Four complete takes occurred.

(c) RIVER IRWELL TREATMENT.

A treatment of portions of the River Irwell took place between 30th May and 12th June. Bait was laid at 1,415 points on alternate days; 183 poison baits were laid (15% arsenic and sausage rusk). There were 24 "good" takes, and 46 "partial" takes. Four bodies were recovered, and it is estimated from the quantity of bait taken that 442 rats were killed.

The work was carried out by the Rodent Operator with an assistant. The weather was extremely good during the treatment except for heavy rainfall on one day. Infestation appears to persist in certain areas and the operator frequently refers in his report, to rat droppings and feet marks of rats on the exposed mud of the river.

The river continues to be polluted; miscellaneous refuse of both animal and organic nature were found in certain parts. An annual treatment, as in the case of sewers, appears to be warranted. An earlier start in the year is required before vegetation becomes too dense. Staff sickness delayed the work this summer.

The treatment was co-ordinated with Mr. H. Turner, Director of Cleansing, County Borough of Bury, on the boundary of the two districts, and with Mr. P. G. Price, District Goods Manager, British Railways, Bolton in connection with railway embankments in close proximity to the river.

Councillor G. Holt, J.P., Councillor F. Tipping and the Chief Sanitary Inspector were the Local Authority's representatives on the North East Lancashire Advisory Committee on Rodent Control, for the year 1955, this met twice during the year at Blackburn and Burnley.

Mortuary.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 198.

The mortuary was used during the year for the reception of 4 bodies, death resulting from the following causes :—

3 deaths from natural causes.

1 suicide.

Public Conveniences.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 87.

Six Public Conveniences are provided in different parts of the town, two catering for males only.

Temporary conveniences were erected at Holcombe Hill on Good Friday to cater for the large influx of visitors.

During the year considerable damage continued to be done to conveniences.

Fittings were damaged and coin boxes attacked. The result of this damage frequently causes inconvenience to the public.

Rag Flock and other Filling Materials Act, 1951.

This Act and regulations made thereunder came into force on 1st November, 1951.

One Certificate of Registration is in force for a factory using Kapok, down and feathers as a filling material.

No samples of the above materials were taken during the year.

Marine Store Dealers.

Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1907. Section 86.

The names and addresses of four dealers in old metal appear in the register kept by the Department in pursuance of Section 86 of the Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1907.

Pet Shops.

Pet Animals Act, 1951. Section 1.

This act controls the conditions under which pet animals are kept for sale. One licence was issued during the year for the keeping of a pet shop.

The Council reduced the renewal fee for a licence from 10/- to 5/- per annum, but the initial licence to remain at 10/-.

Bye-Laws in Force in the District.

New Streets Byelaws	18th March, 1924
Emission of Smoke Byelaws	4th May, 1931
Pleasure Ground Byelaws	6th August, 1931
Common Lodging House Byelaws	1st November, 1935
Slaughterhouse Byelaws	1st November, 1935
Nuisance Byelaws	1st February, 1936
Food Handling Byelaws	26th June, 1950
Building Byelaws	15th February, 1954

Chief Sanitary Requirements of the District.

Further reduction in number of unsatisfactory private water supplies.

Sewering of the Turn district, and reduction of number of pail closets.

Abolition of waste water closets.

Clearance of Unfit Houses.

Reduction in the pollution of the River Irwell.

Section E

HOUSING

NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR.

	<i>Houses</i>	<i>Flats</i>
(i) By the Local Authority	25	4
(ii) By Other Local Authorities	Nil	Nil
(iii) By Other Bodies or Persons	2	Nil

HOUSING

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—
 - (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 685
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose, formal or informal 1,520
 - (2) Dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit :
 - (a) Number found during the year 79
 - (b) Number (or estimated number) at end of year 69
 - (3) Number of dwelling-houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit 13
2. Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1936, Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954) :—
 - (1) Number of dwelling-houses demolished during the year :
 - (a) Unfit houses 10
 - (b) Other houses Nil
 - (2) Number of persons displaced 23
3. Houses not included in Clearance Areas :—

	<i>Number of</i>	
	<i>Houses</i>	<i>Persons displaced</i>
(1) Houses demolished or closed during year:		
(a) Housing Act 1936		
(i) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Section 11)	Nil	Nil
(ii) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11 and still in force...	4	8
(iii) Parts of buildings closed (Section 12)	Nil	Nil
(b) Housing Act 1949		
(i) Closed as a result of Closing Orders under Sections 3 (1) and 3 (2)	Nil	Nil
(c) Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1953		
(i) Closed as a result of Closing Orders under Sections 10 (1) and 11 (2)	5	9

(2) Repairs during the year :

(a) Houses rendered fit as result of informal action by Local Authority under Housing and Public Health Acts	13
(b) Public Health Acts—action after formal notice—defects remedied :—	
(i) By owners	3
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	1
(c) Housing Act 1936—action after service of formal notice (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16) :	
(i) By owners	1
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil
4. Unfit houses in temporary use (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954) :—	
(1) Number of houses at end of year retained for temporary accommodation and approved for grant under Section 7	Nil
(2) Number of separate dwellings contained in (1) above ...	Nil
(3) Number of houses at end of year licensed for temporary occupation (Section 6)	Nil

5. Housing Act, 1949—Improvement Grants.

No action has been taken by the Local Authority under this Act. A sub-committee was appointed during the year to consider adopting the act.

Housing Conditions.

Housing Acts, 1936 and 1949.

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954

The majority of the houses in the district are stone built, consisting of two rooms up and two rooms down ; conveniences such as hot water systems, baths, etc., are absent in many cases. Approximately 58% of the houses have baths, and 83% have water closets.

Some idea of the extent of the housing position can be judged from the following figures which show the number of families applying for Council Houses.

Total No. of Separate Family Units applying for
2-Bedroomed 3-Bedroomed

	<i>Bungalows and Flats :</i>	<i>Houses :</i>	<i>Houses :</i>
Without separate houses ...	15	21	7
With separate houses ...	81	133	63
Estimated future requirements *	5	10	4

The present position as to real housing needs and to overcrowding cannot be accurately assessed without a comprehensive survey. It is not thought to be a serious problem judged by the applicants for council houses and figures from clearance area inspections.

*Excludes houses required to replace unfit houses which will be the subject of demolition orders.

Local Authority Housing Schemes.

At the end of the year on the Tagg Wood Estate, sixty-four houses were in course of erection out of a total of sixty-eight houses, made up as follows:

1 Bedroom Flats	—	24
2 Bedroom Houses	—	32
3 Bedroom Houses	—	12

Future development is contemplated with houses on the Pin Meadow Estate, made up as follows:

1 Bedroom Flats	—	16
2 Bedroom Houses	—	11
3 Bedroom Houses	—	5

Unfit Housing.

(a) *Housing Act, 1936. Section 25.*

In June a report was presented to the Council on a housing survey of sub-standard type houses within the area of the Urban District. This was required under Section 1, Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 for submission to the Minister of Housing and Local Government by 30th August 1955.

While not every house in the district was inspected, the Minister required an estimate of the number of houses unfit for human habitation. In all 678 houses were listed in the report, of the following types :—

Ward	Through Houses	Back-to-Back Houses	Back-to-Back Type Houses	Back-to-Earth Houses	Total
NORTH ...	43	32	21	3	99
CENTRAL ...	97	29	9	Nil	135
EAST ...	86	16	20	7	129
SOUTH ...	81	10	14	Nil	105
WEST ...	70	75	39	4	188
W-C-S ...	8	Nil	13	1	22
TOTAL ...	385	162	116	15	678

The standard for unfit houses is laid down in Section 9, Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. A number of items are listed, and the houses which fall short of these requirements are as follows :—

STABILITY.—Some 103 houses are unstable due to settlement of walls, sagging roofs.

NATURAL LIGHTING AND VENTILATION.—374 houses fall short in these aspects to a greater or lesser degree.

WATER SUPPLY.—60 houses have private water supplies, generally in more outlying parts, where mains conversion would be uneconomical.

DRAINAGE.—The majority of these houses are connected to the public sewer, although in 56 houses sink drainage is inadequate.

SANITARY CONVENIENCES.—427 houses have fresh water closets ; 179 houses have waste water closets ; 72 houses have pail closets.

*Comparison of Sub-Standard Houses with
Total Houses in the District*

(a)	Total number of houses in district	...	...	...	5,232
(b)	Total number of private houses	...	...	...	4,525
(c)	Total number of Council houses	...	...	...	707
(d)	Total number of sub-standard houses	...	...	...	678
(e)	Total number of back-to-back and back-to-back type houses	...	...	...	278
(f)	Total number of back-to-earth houses	...	...	...	15
(g)	Total number of sub-standard through houses	...	...	...	385

Percentage of Total Houses in District

(a)	Sub-standard houses—all categories	...	...	...	12·90%
(b)	Sub-standard houses—back-to-back and back-to-back type	...	...	...	5·30%
(c)	Sub-standard houses—back-to-earth	...	...	...	0·28%

HOUSING PROGRAMME

During the year the Council continued their work in connection with clearance areas, and the position as at 31st December 1955 was as follows :—

<i>Area No.</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>No. of Houses</i>	<i>Year Repre- sented</i>	<i>Year of Inquiry</i>	<i>Year Re- housed</i>	<i>Year De- molished</i>
1	East Street	2	1954	1954	1955	1956
2	Whalley Road (No. 4) ...	10	1954	1954	1955	1955
3	Kenyon Street	2	1954	1954	1955	1956
4	Brook Street	4	1954	1954	1955	1956
5	Back Bridge Street, Flag Street	6	1954	1954	1955	—
6	Woodhey Road & Gem Street	3	1955	1955	1956	—
7	New Smithy	5	1955	1955	1956	—
8	Whalley Road (No. 5) ...	4	1955	1955	1956	—
9	Wilds Place & Dundee Lane...	3	1955	1955	1955	—
10	Foot o'th' Rake	3	1955	1955	—	—
11	Old Engine	2	1955	—	—	—
12	Dundee Lane... ..	7	1955	1955	—	—
13	Tanners Street	3	1955	—	—	—
14	Whalley Road (No. 6) ...	3	1955	—	1955	—
15	Market Street (No. 2) ...	3	1955	1956	1956	—
16	Cooper Street & King Street	10	1955	—	—	—
17	Plunge	6	1955	—	—	—
18	Holcombe Brook Road ...	2	1955	—	—	—

In all the Medical Officer of Health made thirteen official representations involving fifty-four houses with a total population of 115 persons. Local public inquiries were held by inspectors of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in six clearance areas, and they inspected six other areas.

All the Council's clearance orders were eventually confirmed by the Minister without modification.

In addition a number of individually unfit houses were dealt with, four in number, and undertakings were accepted in connection with five houses under Section 11(3) Housing Act 1936.

There is close co-operation with Mr. H. Hilton, the Housing Manager, in dealing with housing problems in unfit houses, and the Health and Housing Committees have a close liaison in these matters.

(b) Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954

No applications for "Certificates of Disrepair" were received under Section 26 of the above Act.

Section F

INSPECTION AND
SUPERVISION
OF FOOD

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

No. of registered distributors operating from :—

(a) Own dairies in the district	...	...	...	...	...	2
(b) Shops in the district other than dairies	...	...	...	...	...	19
(c) Premises outside the district	...	...	...	...	...	5

The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949—54.

No. of dealers' licences (including supplementary licences) issued by local authority during 1955 in respect of :—

Tuberculin Tested Milk.

Distribution	7
--------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949—53.

No. of licences issued in respect of heat-treated milk.

Retail distributors :—

Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Sterilised	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22

All unsatisfactory samples of milk produced in this district are reported to the Milk Production Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, who is now responsible for production of milk. Twenty one out of 141 samples were reported to the County Agricultural Officer.

Notification of 4 tuberculous samples out of 128 samples of milk, were forwarded to the Divisional Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The Ministry carried out 9 veterinary inspections of cattle in this district. Five cows were seized and slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

There was a rise in the percentage of tuberculous milk samples, from 1.66% in 1954 to 3.10% in 1955. This result is most unsatisfactory. These all occurred in ungraded milks, and emphasises the need for the pasteurisation of all milk.

In April the Council made representations to the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries and Food for the district to be declared a "specified area" under the provisions of Section 23 of the Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950. By the end of the year the position remained unchanged.

During the year a number of cases were reported by members of the public and milk retailers of milk bottles either containing foreign bodies, or being dirty on the internal surfaces of the bottles. As action could not be taken locally these cases were reported to the Milk Production Officer. The householder has a moral duty to see that this expensive piece of dairy equipment is returned to the milkman in a clean condition, and the milk bottler a legal duty to see that the bottle is clean before it is filled.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Section 68.

The following table shows the results of samples of milk submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Monsall Hospital, Manchester.

The results of the methylene blue tests, which are an indication of the keeping quality of the milk, are fairly good, only 21 samples failing out of a total of 128 samples of raw milk. Nine samples of pasteurised milk passed the methylene blue test, and they all passed the phosphatase heat treatment test. Four samples of sterilised milk were found to comply with the regulations, having passed the turbidity test.

Type of Milk	Number of Samples Submitted	Turbidity Test		Methylene Blue		Tubercle Bacilli		Phosphatase Test		Total No. of Tests
		Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	
Undesignated	78	—	—	69	9	74	4	—	—	156
Pasteurised	9	—	—	9	—	—	—	9	—	18
Tuberculin Tested	50	—	—	38	12	50	—	—	—	100
Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised	4	—	—	4	—	—	—	4	—	8
Sterilised	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Totals	145	4	—	120	21	124	4	13	—	286

(b) Ice Cream.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Section 14.

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947.

The following is a list of the various types of ice cream premises registered within the district.

Registered Wholesale and Retail Manufacturers	...	1
Registered Retail Manufacturers	... ..	2
Registered Retail Vendor's Premises (in use)	... ..	56

In January, 1949, the Council adopted five Codes of Practice approved by the Lancs. County Council, covering the manufacture, transportation, storing and sale of ice cream. All persons dealing with this product are informed of the appropriate Code, and this is now the standard required in all premises.

The following table shows the results of samples of ice-cream taken in the district during the year, which were examined and classified according to their reaction to the methylene blue reduction test.

Type of Ice Cream	Provisional Grade				Methylene Blue Test		Total Tests
	1	2	3	4	Passed	Failed	
Local Manufacture ...	19	3	3	5	19	11	30
Not Local Manufacture	5	—	1	—	5	1	6
Totals	24	3	4	5	24	12	36

When considering these results it should be remembered that the methylene blue test and the grading as applied to ice-cream is provisional, and is only an index of its bacterial cleanliness and not its safety for human consumption. The results on this basis were reasonably good, twelve samples falling below grade I.

The Ministry of Health suggest that over a period of six months, 50% of a vendors samples should fall into Grade I, 80% into Grade I or II, not more than 20% into Grade III, and none into Grade IV.

Ramsbottom Urban District Council

WEIGHTS OF CARCASES AND ORGANS FOUND TO BE UNFIT FOR HUMAN FOOD

Year	ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS			TUBERCULOSIS ONLY	
	Whole carcases and organs Pounds	Part carcases and organs Pounds	Total Pounds	Whole carcases and organs Pounds	Part carcases and organs Pounds
1940	1,062	992	2,054	1,761	8,052
1941	134	696	830	1,430	7,697
1942	432	604	1,036	916	4,812
1943	358	520	878	1,307	5,366
1944	Nil	409	409	2,562	5,535
1945	124	890	1,014	2,688	6,077
1946	Nil	1,192	1,192	1,215	7,488
1947	508	949	1,457	1,898	4,814
1948	175	996	1,171	4,296	4,563
1949	702	1,307	2,009	5,121	10,500
1950	1,790	1,654	3,444	2,961	8,155
1951	1,302	1,715	3,017	2,951	7,277
1952	10,544	2,899	13,443	3,129	6,573
1953	11,059	4,734	15,793	3,658	5,185
1954	4,692	9,236	13,928	6,571	11,040
1955	680	12,872	13,552	10,182	21,118
Totals	33,562	41,665	75,227	52,646	124,252
					176,698

Ramsbottom Urban District Council
CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED—1944-1955

Year	Number Killed	Number Inspected	ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS			TUBERCULOSIS ONLY		
			Whole carcasses Condemned	Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	% of No. inspected affected by disease other than tuberculosis	Whole carcasses condemned	Carcasses of which some part or organ condemned	% of No. inspected affected with tuberculosis
1944	3,549	3,549	Nil	*	*	12	*	*
1945	3,730	3,730	1	*	*	15	*	*
1946	4,200	4,200	Nil	*	*	7	*	*
1947	2,266	2,266	2	*	*	10	*	*
1948	2,979	2,979	1	154	5.2	23	159	6.11
1949	6,157	6,157	4	283	4.66	33	460	8.01
1950	7,422	7,422	11	284	3.97	17	422	5.91
1951	6,714	6,714	8	312	4.77	10	313	4.81
1952	7,897	7,897	30	344	4.73	20	314	4.22
1953	8,082	8,082	29	579	7.52	23	313	3.95
1954	14,392	14,392	20	1,116	7.89	20	535	3.89
1955	16,604	16,604	9	1,435	8.69	40	937	5.70

* No record kept of actual numbers ; record of weights only.

(c) Meat and Food Inspection.*Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Section 10.**Memo 3. Meat.***(i) MEAT.**

During the year all the animals slaughtered at the Bacon Factory and at four other Slaughter Houses have been examined. Particulars of carcasses inspected and amounts condemned are shown below.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cows	Bulls	Heifers	Bullocks	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number killed	1121	73	337	588	93	7514	6878
Number inspected ..	1121	73	337	588	93	7514	6878
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS							
Whole Carcasses Condemned	—	—	—	—	2	3	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	225	9	71	104	1	8	1016
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	20·71	12·32	21·06	17·68	3·22	0·14	14·81
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY							
Whole Carcasses Condemned	13	—	—	—	1	—	26
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	491	12	49	54	—	—	301
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	44·96	16·43	14·54	9·18	1·07	—	4·72

Weight of Carcasses and Organs found to be unfit for human consumption:

	Whole Carcasses and organs pounds	Part Carcasses and organs pounds	Total pounds
All diseases except Tuberculosis	,680	12,872	13,552
Tuberculosis only	10,182	21,118	31,300
Totals	10,862	33,990	44,852

The above figures include pigs slaughtered for private consumption of which parts were surrendered.

A store for condemned meat is provided at the Depot. This is a brick structure, adequately ventilated, flyproof, and provided with cement rendered walls, water laid on, drainage facilities, hanging rails, etc.

MEMORANDUM 3 MEAT (methods and criterion of meat inspection) issued by the Ministry of Food adopted by the Council on the 18th December, 1952, is closely followed.

(ii) SLAUGHTER HOUSES

The decontrol of meat came into operation on the 5th July 1954. The Council finally issued licences for four private slaughter houses, and one slaughter house attached to a bacon factory. Modifications and improvements were carried out at all these premises prior to licences being granted.

During 1955 one slaughterhouse was enlarged by the addition of a cooling room. During the year the five slaughterhouse licences were renewed.

Slaughtering has been carried out continually since decontrol on most days of the week. From January to December a total of 16,604 animals were slaughtered, and 20 tons 0 cwt. 1 quarter 14 lbs. of meat were condemned.

Considerable overtime has been worked by the Council's meat inspectors, and during the above period 159 hours on weekdays and 252 hours on Sundays have been worked, a total of 411 hours. In practice an inspector has to be on duty every Sunday. Considerable quantities of meat produced in the Ramsbottom area are being exported to neighbouring areas.

All condemned meat is removed at the time of inspection, and is dyed with "naphthalene green." It is finally disposed of to a fertiliser and animal feeding stuffs manufacturer. The butchers receive payment equivalent to the "condemned value" of all carcasses condemned as unfit for human consumption.

(iii) SLAUGHTERMEN'S LICENCES

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954.

Slaughter of Animals (Pigs) Act, 1954.

Up to the 31st December 1955, 26 persons had been licensed as slaughtermen.

(iv) OTHER FOODS.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Sections 10 - 12.

In the course of visits to shops, food-stores, food preparation premises the following food stuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption.

Boiled Ham	...	...	...	10	lbs.
Canned Ham	...	...	...	27½	lbs.
Beef Loaf	...	...	...	3½	lbs.
Tongues—Canned	...	...	...	6½	lbs.
Steak—Canned	...	...	...	6	lbs.
Beef—Canned	...	...	...	24¾	lbs.
Fish—Canned	...	...	...	2¼	lbs.
Fish—Wet	...	...	...	70	lbs.
Kippers	...	...	...	28	lbs.
Fruit—Canned	...	...	...	74	lbs.
Vegetables—Canned	...	...	...	12¼	lbs.
Milk—Canned	...	...	...	5	lbs.
Cream—Canned	...	...	...	1¼	lbs.
				<hr/>	
				271	lbs.
				<hr/>	

(v) FOOD AND DRUG SAMPLING

Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Sections 68 - 70.

The provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, relating to the sampling of food for quality are carried out by the Lancashire County Council, Public Health Department, through its County Sanitary Officer, Mr. J. Eckersley.

Dr. S. C. Gawne, the County Medical Officer of Health, has kindly supplied the following information.

A total of 79 samples were obtained in the Ramsbottom District, as compared with 84 samples in 1954.

Forty-five of the samples were milk, including two Channel Island milks, and 34 other foods comprising:—

3 Tea	1 Penicillin Tablets
3 Glaubers Salts	2 Camphorated Oil
3 Saccharin Tablets	2 Boric Acid
4 Cream, Canned	2 Cocoa
1 Demerara Sugar	2 Self Raising Flour
1 Castor Sugar	1 Plum Pudding
1 Beef Sausages	2 Barley
4 Ice Cream	2 Christmas Pudding

All the above samples were reported by the County Analyst to be genuine with the exception of the following:—

<i>Sample</i>	<i>Result of Analysis</i>	<i>Action Taken</i>
I Formal Milk	The freezing point indicated the presence of 0.6% of extraneous water.	Vendor cautioned and further sample obtained.
I Ice Cream	Contained only 4.2% fat.	Do.
I Ice Cream	Contained only 4.4% fat.	Vendor interviewed and further sample obtained.

(d) Lancashire County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951.

Section 14 of the above Act came into force in the district on the 1st April, 1952. This Section concerns the registration of hawkers of food and their premises.

No. of hawkers of fish, vegetables, etc., on register 3

(e) Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Under an order made by the Ministry of Health, Section 14 of the above Act came into force in the district on the 28th March, 1952. This section concerns the registration of premises used in connection with the manufacture or sale of ice cream, preparation or manufacture of sausages, or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food.

The following types of premises appear on the Department's register:—

Premises for sale of cooked meats, etc.	...	...	...	23
Premises for sale of fried fish	...	...	...	14
Premises for sale of ice-cream	...	...	...	55

(f) Lancashire County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951.

Section 13 of the above Act came into force on the 1st April, 1952. This section requires notification to the local authority of the slaughter of animals, slaughtered otherwise than for human consumption. No notices were received during the year.

(g) Public Health (Meat) (Amendment) Regulations, 1952.

These regulations came into force on the 31st August, 1952, and extended the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924/48 to cover an additional class of animal. The slaughter of horses, mares, geldings, etc., is now controlled by these regulations.

No animals in this class were slaughtered in the district during the year.

(h) Clean Food.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Sections 13 and 15.

- (i) The Council has adopted a Code of Practice for shops, stalls and vehicles drawn up by a Committee consisting of the Medical Officers and Sanitary Inspectors of the seven Local Authorities in No. 12 Health Division, and the County Borough of Bury. This Code sets out in detail what is considered to be "good practice" for the various food trades in the day to day running of their businesses.
- (ii) The Council has approved a display card on clean food for distribution to all food shops. The card seeks the co-operation of the customer and trader in keeping both premises and food in a clean condition.
- (iii) A display card, in the form recommended by the Ministry of Food, requesting that dogs should not be brought into premises in which food is sold was distributed to all food shops in the district.
- (iv) The Council has adopted Bye-laws made under Section 15, Food and Drugs Act, 1938, in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food, and sale of food in the open air, they came into force on 26th June, 1950.

